

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-11 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 3 and 6 being canceled, Claims 1, 5, 8, and 9 being amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

This amendment is being resubmitted to correct a minor typographical error in claim 5.

The Examiner objected to the Title as not be descriptive. Applicants have amended the Title to more clearly describe the invention claimed and respectfully submit that the title satisfies the requirements of the USPTO.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enabling requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The present invention is directed to a signal processing apparatus, such as a musical signal processing apparatus that has inputs and outputs. In addition to inputs and outputs, the apparatus also includes an input patch for connecting between input ports and input channels that are internal to the signal apparatus. The input patch may be configured to set connection correspondence between a particular input port and a particular input channel. The signal processing apparatus further includes setting means for setting correspondence between input and output ports. Finally, the signal processing apparatus includes transmission control means that transmits control signals via the output ports that correspond to a particular input port.

The present invention provides the ability of transmitting control signals from an output port, in correspondence with the input port, regardless of whether a user may change the connection

correspondence between input ports and input channels. For instance and by way of an example, referring to the mixer device M of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the connection between the input ports 23 (1 to 3) and the input channels CH 1 to 3 can be changed, while the connections between the recorders 12 (1 to 3) and the input ports 23 (1 to 3), the connection between the input channels CH 1 to 3 and the faders (1 to 3), the connection between the recorders 12 (1 to 3) and the GPI outs 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6 (the output ports) need not (and cannot) be changed.

In the prior art, if the connections between input ports and input channels are changed, there is a problem in that the recorder that inputs an audio signal to the input channel becomes different from the recorder that is controlled by the fader connected to the input channel to which the audio signal is inputted. To solve this problem, in the preferred embodiment of the present application (mixer device M), the one-to-one correspondence relationship between the input ports and the GPI outs (for instance input port 23(1) correspond to GPI outs 1-2, 23(2) to 3-4, and 23(3) to 5-6) can be set freely while the information on the configured one-to-one correspondence relationship is maintained during a mixing process. Furthermore, each GPI out is connected to the same recorder 12 to which the corresponding input port 23 is connected (for instance, GPI out 1-2 is connected to 12(1) to which the input port 23(1) is connected, as shown in Figs. 4A to 5B).

As a result, in the present invention, even if the connections between input ports and the input channels are changed during the mixing process, by referring to the configured one-to-one correspondence relationships, it is possible to still transmit a control signal (e.g., a fader-off or fader-on event) from the GPI outs that correspond to the input port connected to the input channels

to which the audio signal is inputted. Consequently, the control signal can be transmitted to the same recorder 12 from which the audio signal inputted to the input channel is transmitted.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are fully supported by the present application, and that one skilled in the art would certainly be enabled to build a device as claimed in view of the teachings of the specification.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly recite the invention claimed, and respectfully submit that the invention as claimed are compliant with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Roland VS-1680 Owner's Manual ("Roland"). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Roland discloses an input mixer and a track mixer (*see, e.g.*, pp. 25-26). However, with respect to the present invention as claimed, Roland does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of setting means and transmission control means. Specifically, the input mixer and the track mixer of Roland include only audio signal ports (the MIX L/R (MASTER) and the REC 1-8 ports); no control signals ports are disclosed. That is, Roland does not disclose any output ports from which control signals may be transmitted to an external device. Applicants note that none of the MIX L/R (MASTER) nor the REC 1-8 transmit a control signal of any kind, and thus cannot be correlated to the output ports of the present invention as recited in the claims. Moreover, even if assuming the MIX L/R (MASTER) ports somehow correspond to the output port recited in Claim 1, Roland does

not teach or suggest a one-to-one correspondence between the input jacks and the MIX L/R (MASTER) ports. That is, the MIX L/R (MASTER) ports in the VS-1680 is not selectable based on an input port or input channel correspondence.

With specific regard to Claims 5, 7, 9 and 11, Applicants note that the FADER/MUTE button disclosed in Roland is used only for assigning faders on the panel to the track mixer or the input mixer; the button does not perform the function of mode setting for selectively setting a first mode or a second mode from which a control signal is to be transmitted.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below. In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032039900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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